



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Shaftesbury Cross Boundary Working Group – Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2012 at 12.00 pm at Shaftesbury Town Hall

Present:

- Cllr Lester Dibben (STC)
- Cllr Simon Firbank (Bourton PC)
- Cllr Christine Pettifer (Melbury Abbas & Cann PC)
- Cllr Val Potheary (NDDC)
- Cllr Colin Winder (SSDC and Wincanton TC)
- Cllr Steve Clinch (STC)
- Cllr Andy Ryalls (STC)
- Cllr Mick Hicks (STC)
- Cllr Edwin Raynor (Melbury Abbas & Cann PC)
- Cllr Mervyn Jeffery (NDDC and DCC)
- Cllr Deborah Croney (NDDC)
- Cllr Tony Deane (Wiltshire Council)
- Cllr Jose Green (Wiltshire Council)
- Cllr Alistair Leask (Motcombe PC)

In attendance:

- Nicola Merefield (Town Clerk, STC)
- Stephen Hill (General Manager, NDDC)
- Stephen Harris (Community Area Manager, SW Wiltshire Council)

Cllr Dibben welcomed those present to the meeting and introductions were made. Cllr Dibben gave some background on the Joint Committee for Gypsy and Traveller Sites which had been formed by Shaftesbury Town Council and Melbury Abbas and Cann Parish Council.

1. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman – Cllr Raynor proposed Cllr Dibben. This was seconded by Cllr Jeffery and **AGREED**. It was further **AGREED** to delay the election of a Deputy Chairman until the attendees had reported back to their respective councils the outcomes of the meeting and a way forward had been agreed.
2. Membership, Terms of Reference and title of group

The aim of the group was **AGREED** as follows:

The aim of the forum is to promote cross border co-operation between towns and parishes located on the Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset borders. Members will work together to support each other on areas on common interest, including:

Transport

Tourism

Education

Employment

Business and Commerce

Health

Housing

Environment

The group will bring local decision making back into the heart of the community believing that working together will achieve much more than working individually.

The name of the group was **AGREED** as 'The Wessex Cross Border Working Group'.

It was **AGREED** that the local parishes in the area of the group's interest would be contacted and invited to join the group. It was noted that the Wiltshire Board would send a member.

It was **AGREED** that the Board's meetings would have an informal status and be for exploratory discussion on matters of common interest. It was noted that the Board would have no formal authority at this embryonic stage.

3. Reports to the working group

- a. Stephen Harris, South West Wilts – Mr Harris gave a presentation to the group, slides of this presentation are attached.
- b. Hilary Ritchie, North Dorset – Mrs Ritchie had sent apologies and Mr Hill gave a report in her absence. He highlighted the work of the Team North Dorset meetings.

4. The Secretariat - It was **AGREED** that Nicola Merefield Town Clerk STC would act as the Clerk to the group until it was established.

5. To identify the Hot Topics to raise – Following discussion the Hot Topics were **AGREED** as:

- Education
- Highways (the A350/A30)
- Health
- Gypsy and Traveller sites and locations
- Transport

Of these hot topics two areas were prioritised for the next meeting – Education and Transport.

6. Any other Business – There was none.

7. Date and time of next meeting - It was **AGREED** to hold the next meeting in mid October and that the meeting would focus on the two prioritised hot topics – education and transport.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.20 pm.